

Richard Spitzmiller

Richard Spitzmiller was born February 8, 1854 in Germany's Black Forest. He came to the United States in 1880 and was living in Cincinnati, Ohio. Richard was in the stone-cutting business. He married Barbara Regg on October 22, 1883 and they had three children: a son Gustave Anton and twin daughters Rose and Catherine.

In 1907 his son Gus bought land at Stillwater. He convinced his father to move to Colorado and take over the ranch which he did, bringing with him his wife and two daughters in 1910. They may have also filed on addition land adjacent to the original purchase. They raised cattle and hay. (In the 1940s this ranch was part of the Colorado Big Thompson project and is now under Lake Granby.) They raised a marvelous garden of root vegetables and head lettuce, when the porcupines would let them. Gus remembers going out to the garden with a big club to kill the porkies. How they loved lettuce and how they could ruin a field full in one night. And the next morning, without fail, those porkies would be turned over on their backs with their bellies ripped neatly down the center. Every bit of meat would be cleaned out of them and not a quill disturbed – Mountain lions!

